

# Metropolitan Transportation Commission Programming and Allocations Committee

April 12, 2006

Item Number 5a

**Subject:** Alternative 2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) in Response to CTC Funding Shortfall.

**Background:** At the January 2006 Commission meeting, MTC adopted the 2006 RTIP, MTC's proposal for spending regional funding available as part of the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) (MTC Resolution 3740). MTC's 2006 RTIP proposal, now under review by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for adoption on April 27, includes approximately \$590 million in programming in state fiscal years 2006-07 through 2010-11. Roughly 75 percent of the funding was programmed to highway and local roads projects, with the remaining 25 percent programmed to transit projects. Although the statewide STIP Fund Estimate indicated a preponderance to transit-specific Public Transit Account (PTA) funding, CTC staff directed regions to program to their priorities irrespective of "color of money".

**Issues:** Subsequent to the RTIP submittal to CTC in January, CTC staff has informed MTC that a statewide shortage of highway-eligible funding will force the deletion of up to \$110 million in highway projects in the MTC region. The CTC staff recommendation, outlining a proposed response to this shortfall, will be released by April 7 and will be available at the Committee meeting.

According to SB 45 (Kopp, 1997), the CTC may reject an RTIP in its entirety, if the RTIP is inconsistent with the adopted CTC guidelines. Staff believes that MTC's adopted 2006 RTIP is consistent with CTC's direction.

If CTC's April 7<sup>th</sup> staff proposal recommends removal of highway projects from MTC's submitted RTIP, staff recommends working with the Congestion Management Agencies and transit operators to identify and program additional transit-eligible projects in the RTIP, replacing highway-eligible projects that are proposed for removal from the RTIP. The viability of this recommendation will be discussed with CTC staff, and a final proposal brought to the Committee for its consideration.

**Recommendation:** Direct staff to work with our regional transportation partners and the CTC to make RTIP programming revisions to minimize the loss of funding to the region as a result of statewide funding shortfalls projects.